Simplifying Accessibility - Social Sciences Supplemental Document

Simplifying Accessibility Key Points

Alt Text

Summary: Include a meaningful, helpful, context-considerate description for all essential imagery.

Rules Overview:

1. For all essential imagery, a text-based alternative must be provided.
2. Add alt text if the image helps learners understand the content.
3. A 150-character maximum is a good limit to go by.

Videos

Summary: Provide a text-based alternative (captions or transcript) to all narration and an image description for all essential imagery that goes undescribed in the text.

Rules Overview:

1. Always include captions, and always double-check them if they're auto-generated.
2. When you record your screen, describe the details of what you're demonstrating aloud as you demonstrate it.
3. If all essential visuals aren't fully narrated, make a transcript with an imagery description section.

Bonus Tip! Consider inclusive language use in your course by avoiding colloquial language and stating information as concisely as possible.

Documents

Summary: Ensure your documents include proper structure and descriptions for all essential visuals.

Rules Overview:

1. Word Docs are preferred over PDFs.
2. If you make a PDF, make the source doc accessible first.
3. Always export as a PDF using the proper method.

Bonus Tip! Be sure to utilize the correct heading structure and avoid formatting with "enter" only.

General Accessibility Resources

- **WebAIM Color Contrast Checker:** A tool that allows users to check whether the text and background colors on a page meet contrast standards, ensuring visual accessibility for students with vision impairments.
- **W3C AltText Decision Tree:** A resource that guides when and how to provide alternative text for images, helping content creators ensure that all visual materials are accessible to students using screen readers.
- **Deque NVDA Keyboard Shortcuts:** A comprehensive list of essential keyboard shortcuts for NVDA, a popular screen reader. This helps students who rely on keyboard navigation access web content efficiently.
- **W3C Home Page Accessibility Demonstration:** A set of examples from W3C on how to properly format web pages for accessibility, which includes the use of headings, lists, and other structural elements essential for creating accessible content in any subject.

Social Science Accessibility Tips

- **Section 508 for Multimedia Content:** Follow Section 508 guidelines for accessible content by providing captions for video lectures and alt text for maps, charts, and images used in social sciences.
- **Structure for Long-Form Reading:** Use proper heading styles and structured lists to help screen readers navigate historical texts, articles, and student essays.
- **Keyboard Navigation:** Ensure all interactive content (e.g., clickable maps, drag-and-drop timelines, quizzes, and surveys) is operable by keyboard alone.
- **Making Diagrams Accessible:** For complex visuals like timelines or flowcharts, provide a structured alternative such as a table or step-by-step text. Avoid relying on alt text alone — screen readers need access to the data, not just a description.
- **Making Primary Sources Accessible:** Provide typed transcripts or simplified versions of historical documents. Avoid scanned PDFs or image-only formats, which are unreadable by screen readers. Use resources like **DocsTeach** to find accessible examples.

- **Support Diverse Reading Levels:** Offer summaries, vocabulary previews, or leveled versions of complex texts to help students access primary sources, nonfiction, or historically dense content.

Social Science Accessibility Resources

Social Science Creator Accessibility

- **Leonardo:** A color contrast tool that allows users to generate accessible color schemes for maps, charts, and diagrams, ensuring legibility for visually impaired students.
- **ColorBrewer 2.0:** A tool designed to create accessible color palettes specifically for maps and data visualizations, making it easier to present geographical and statistical data clearly.

Social Science Accessibility Guidelines

- **Pearson Al1y Geography Map Guidance:** Offers best practices for creating accessible maps, including how to write descriptive alt text and select appropriate color contrast for students with visual impairments.
    - **Table Guidance from Pearson:** Pearson provides best practices for creating accessible tables.
- **Accessible Map Chart for Low Vision Guidelines:** Provides tips on designing maps and charts with high contrast, simple labeling, and clear data presentation to support students with low vision.

Social Science Accessibility Support

- **Tactile Graphic Image Library:** A collection of tactile graphics that make visual math concepts accessible to blind and low-vision students.
- **BookShare:** A digital library that provides accessible books, including social science textbooks, for students with print disabilities, supporting independent learning through audio and text options.
- **Tactile Maps and Teaching Map Skills:** Resources that provide tactile maps and instructions for teaching map skills to visually impaired students, enhancing their understanding of geography.